

this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. I rise today to join my fellow Members of Congress to honor the memory of John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, who died defending not only our lives but democracy itself.

These men were our friends, like so many Capitol Hill police officers who serve and protect us day after day, Congress after Congress, decade after decade. They do so with a quiet dedication and an obvious devotion. Whether helping a Member of Congress or any of the millions of visitors who come to Capitol Hill every year, Capitol Hill police play a vital role in assuring that American democracy works. They do so with thousands of acts of devotion and dedication to their duty. We know they may have to perform the ultimate act of devotion, but we also pray that they never do.

John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut made the supreme sacrifice, and we know they did so without hesitation. They were our friends, our protectors, and they laid down their lives, not only for us, but for the freedom that this institution represents.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OFFICER CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation and the Capitol Hill family and, of course, the families of Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut deal with this extraordinary tragedy, we, of course, extend our condolences to the immediate family members and their dear friends, including all of our friends here on Capitol Hill who have been so impacted by this.

One cannot help but think of what it is we can learn from this, and what it is that this has taught us. Of course, we have all, over the past few days, expressed greater appreciation for those men and women who are on the front line as Capitol Hill police officers than we have ever have.

I have always prided myself on being friendly and talking with them, but there have been more than a few occasions where I have been in a hurry and rushed by. Over the weekend and yesterday and today, of course, like all of my colleagues, we have stopped and taken a moment to express our appreciation. We all know how important gratitude is.

We also must remember, as we have just had the opportunity to walk by the two caskets in the great rotunda, and in about 45 minutes we will be moving into the Rotunda for this service, but we have to remember that this experience shows us the magnitude of man's humanity to man. We know it is, from this experience, our deeds that make us great, and while we have been talking, as we do so well here, we know that our words are important, but it is our deeds that will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, these two men exemplify the simple, everyday greatness of self-sacrifice. I join in extending condolences to the Gibson and Chestnut families, and wish them God speed.

IN TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, without excessive repetition, I would like to join my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, who gave their lives dutifully protecting this hallowed institution.

These two heroes were great points of light for all Americans. It is important that we all come together across party lines and across all other differences to pay homage to these two heroes. As we pay tribute to the dead, let us also honor the other police and protective forces and other staff members whose reverence for this institution is no less than and sometimes even greater than the reverence of elected members.

In paying tribute to our defenders, we reaffirm the fact that this House of Representatives and the democratic process, this government, belongs to all of the people. We reaffirm the fact that we are the guardians of a sacred process that takes place within the halls of this Capitol.

This democratic process cannot survive without institutional support. This process and the institution have become inseparable. This is the great democratic process that guarantees our freedom and guards our national progress.

It is the process that inspired the bravery and the courage on the beaches of Normandy. It is the same process that applauded and rewarded the returning World War II heroes with more than merely marches and medals.

This Congress, this institution, passed the G.I. Bill, that offered unprecedented educational opportunities to every veteran. This is the democratic process and the institution that followed the leadership of the assassinated President, Abraham Lincoln, and passed the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, ending slavery and guaranteeing equal treatment and the right to vote.

This is the process and the institution that, while mourning the death of John F. Kennedy, accepted the wise and forceful guidance of President Lyndon Johnson in the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

This is a sacred place and a sacred process. They must at all times be protected and defended. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson instinctively understood the nature of our mission. The workings of this institution are more complex than the wiring or gadgets of any nuclear submarine. The impact of

the results of what we conclude here has more explosive power and long range consequences than any space rocket ever fired at NASA.

To keep this institution relevant and capable of meeting the challenges of our rapidly changing and demanding world, we need the elevator operators, the cleaning staff, the receptionists, the analysts, the secretaries, the directors, chiefs of staff, coordinators, counsel, information specialists, administrative assistants, and yes, we need the detectives and the police. All are vitally necessary. A complicated world demands an intricate governmental infrastructure.

The democratic process within this infrastructure must be protected because the twin monsters of insanity and violent savagery are always scratching out there at the door. In the last 50 years, the bullets of assassins have dramatically altered history in America. Some victims were President John F. Kennedy; Martin Luther King, Junior; Robert Kennedy; and the almost-murdered President Ronald Reagan.

Against the twin monsters of insanity and savagery, we must do more than merely mourn the loss of our heroes. Most Americans can only grieve with the families of J. J. Chestnut and John Gibson. We 435 Members of Congress can do much more.

In paying tributes to these heroes, we Members of Congress should seek a solidarity across party lines and beyond the usual philosophical and ideological agendas. In defense of this great institution and to protect all vulnerable Americans, we must unite and act as one. Let this be a time of new reflections, new insights, and new resolve to find ways to disarm the proliferating number of insane and savage assassins.

The second amendment was designed to make us safe from tyranny, to bolster our sense of security. No well-regulated militia should allow the rampant and random distribution of firearms among the populace.

In the name of our Capitol heroes, Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, and for the sake of the families of all similar victims, let us resolve, as powerful decision-makers, as Members of Congress, let us resolve to end the escalating terror of handguns in America.

ON THE DEATHS OF OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor two men in a way that has been reserved for Presidents and military heroes. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we would honor these two slain Capitol Police officers as only 26 other Americans have been recognized.

Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were heroes. They chose to place themselves in harm's way every day they came to work. In that awful moment last Friday, they did not flinch from making the ultimate sacrifice to protect coworkers, friends, and even complete strangers.

They were more than just officers, though. They were husbands, fathers, and a grandfather. We grieve with their families, mourning their loss and ours. Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were part of that thin blue line that runs through every community in America.

As we remember their heroism this week, let us not forget that their colleagues here at the Capitol and in law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation still stand ready to protect and search. Let us appreciate the contributions they make and the risks that they take each day when they put on that uniform.

As Ronald Reagan said, those who say we don't have heroes anymore, well, they just don't know where to look. We lost two of those heroes on Friday.

TRIBUTE TO THE SLAIN OFFICERS WHO DEFENDED THE U.S. CAPITOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the slain officers who valiantly have defended the people's House last Friday, Special Agent John Gibson and Special Agent Jacob Chestnut.

Shakespeare wrote, "All the world is a stage, and all the men and women, merely players. Each has his entrance and his exit. One man in his time may play many parts."

So it was with Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. They, too, played many roles. They were sons, husbands, fathers, friends, coworkers. They were great men, great not because of the titles they carried, not because of the uniforms they wore. They were great not because of where they worked, nor because of who they worked with.

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No, they were great because, measured by the true standard of greatness set by Jesus, that is, "he who is great among you shall be your servant and he who is greatest shall be servant unto all," they measured up.

They served us all. They stood by the door to protect us and thousands who visit this Capitol each day. Both literally and figuratively, they served us and America by giving their last full measure of devotion and to protect us and the House of Democracy.

Too often, those in exalted places of power overlook the nameless persons who serve and wait. Whether those who sweep the floors, hold the doors, service or drive the elevators, serve the food, cut the grass, or clean the toilets,

they are too often overlooked. But they, too, are great, because they also serve.

We are grateful to God and to the families of Officers Gibson and Chestnut for allowing us in America to benefit from their service.

Yes, all the world is a stage and all the men and women merely players. Each has its entrance and his exit and these two in their time played many parts. For their service and their friendship, we are grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad heart to extend my condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. I do this on behalf of my wife, Simone, and our family, my staff, and the constituents of the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

I have only been a Member of the Capitol community for about 5 months, and it has been a learning experience for me and my staff, as most of us are new to Washington. One of the things that we have learned is that there is a strong sense of community here. Members and staff view each other as colleagues, and we view our staffs as part of our families.

The Capitol Police, in my opinion, are indeed an extension of that spirit of professional respect, friendship, and family. They protect Members, they protect our staffs, and they protect the many visitors that visit the Capitol every day. They risk their lives for us and for America. But we must ask ourselves, what is it that they are protecting?

I believe, as I am sure all Americans believe, that they are defending the crucible of freedom. It is the crucible of freedom that is on display every day in this building. The fact that Officers Chestnut and Gibson gave their lives defending this place will serve as a reminder to me what the words "duty" and "service" really mean. The senseless act of this past Friday truly define the words "defending the Constitution."

Yes, I still learn every day that I am here, as I had learned before I arrived here, that we cannot place a value on human life. But a person who is willing to give their life, make the ultimate sacrifice so that someone else might continue to live, is one who really understands life and its value.

Yes, as others have said, freedom is not free. And it is with a tremendous sacrifice that we are free in this country, a freedom that we all too often take for granted.

But I just pray that we all understand what sacrifice means after this tragedy. I again send my prayers to the families of these heroes. I know, and I want them to know, that they are not alone. This House, this Congress, and indeed America's prayers are supporting them.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4328, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-651) on the resolution (H. Res. 510) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4328) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 629, TEXAS LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPACT CONSENT ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-652) on the resolution (H. Res. 511) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 629) to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

STAFF TRIBUTES TO DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I probably will not take the entire 5 minutes, for those who are waiting to speak. I just wanted to add to last night, when I read into the RECORD some of my staff's memories of Detective John Gibson. Today I had a few more that my staff offers, and I wanted to read them into the RECORD as well.

From Jim Morrell,

Working in the front office at the Whip Office for a year and a half, I had the opportunity to come to know John; the opportunity to know what an outstanding human being he truly was. When the nights got late with Congressman DeLaay up in leadership meetings or on the House Floor, there would often be just a few of us left in the office. I can remember staying up there until 11:00 or 12:00 at night with John watching TV or talking about the latest events in the sports world. With John being a die-hard Red Sox fan and me being a die-hard Cubs fan, we often commiserated on the respective futility of our favorite baseball teams.

I walked into the Whip's office last Friday, minutes before the tragic events unfolded. Although I came in the front door, I turned my head towards the back hallway before continuing on. There sat John at the back desk dutifully guarding his post.

For the rest of my life, that image of John will stay with me. The image of a guardian, a defender, a protector. I can imagine John, even as shots were being fired, thinking, "There is no way you are going to harm the people in this office."